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The WOOL SITUATION

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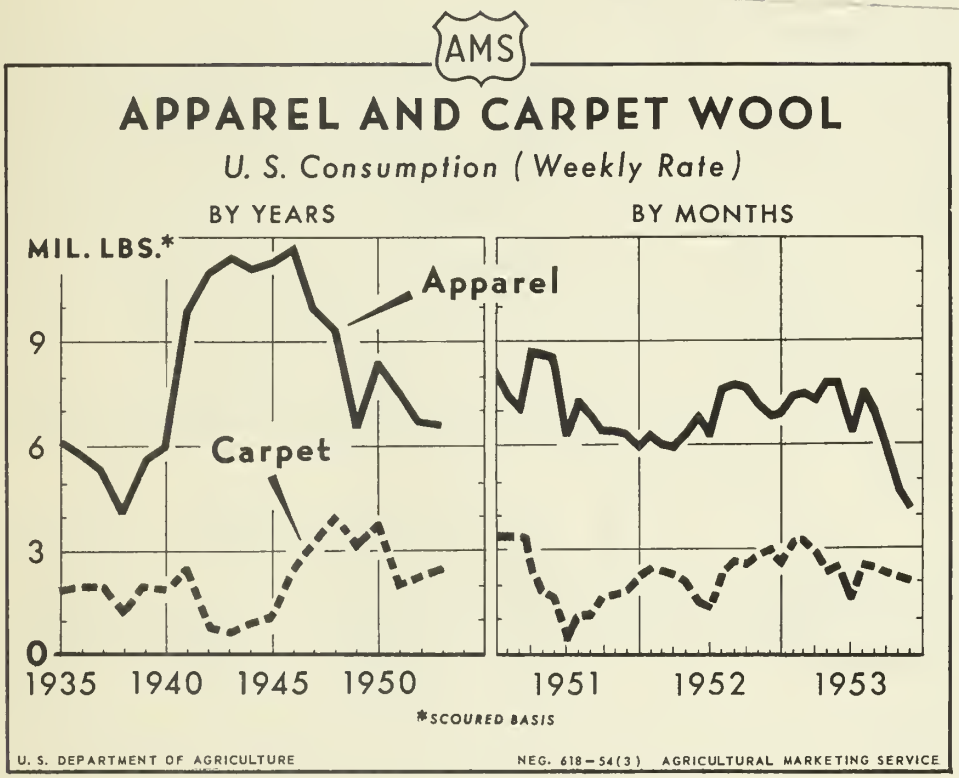

Mill use of apparel wool last year was about the same as in 1952. The rate of consumption was above a year earlier each month through July but below thereafter. During the last two months of the year it was over one-third below a year earlier. The average rate for the fourth quarter was the lowest for that quarter since 1937.

Mills used somewhat more carpet wool last year than during 1952. However, the average weekly rate of consumption during the last four months of the year was substantially below a year earlier. During December, the average rate was almost one-third below that of December 1952.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1952 Dec.	1953 Jan.	1953 Feb.	1953 Mar.	1954 Dec.	1954 Jan.	1954 Feb.	1954 Mar.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	52.8	51.7	52.3	53.4	52.8	53.1	53.1	52.1	98
Parity price	pound	58.7	1/	58.8	59.0	58.4	1/	58.9	59.1	100
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	90	---	89	91	90	---	90	88	
Boston market prices, clean basis 2/	Cents per pound									
Domestic wool										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	171.9	172.5	172.5	172.5	167.5	97
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.8	152.5	100
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	127.5	96
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	120.0	120.0	119.4	112.7	92
Low 1/4 blood	do.	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	104.9	106.5	106.5	102.5	100
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	97.5	100
Graded Fleece										
Delaine	do.	172.3	173.5	171.8	170.8	180.0	180.8	181.0	173.5	102
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	147.5	152.5	150.8	142.5	147.9	148.0	144.0	142.5	100
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	122.5	122.5	122.5	118.5	120.5	120.5	119.6	112.2	95
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	114.0	114.0	116.0	111.5	112.8	113.2	112.1	105.7	95
Low 1/4 blood	do.	100.5	100.5	100.5	105.0	106.3	106.5	106.5	102.5	98
Common and braid	do.	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	97.5	103
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do	173.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	180.5	182.5	182.5	177.5	100
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	155.5	157.5	157.5	158.8	167.5	167.5	167.5	162.5	102
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	138.5	143.0	143.0	143.0	155.8	156.0	156.0	152.5	107
Imported wool, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do	172.5	177.5	177.5	180.0	182.5	182.5	182.5	177.5	99
64's 70's good topmaking	do.	167.5	172.5	172.5	175.0	177.9	177.5	177.5	172.5	99
64's combing	do.	162.5	167.5	167.5	170.0	172.5	172.5	172.5	162.5	96
58's, 60's combing	do.	142.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	146.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	97
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	120.7	121.6	122.0	122.0	125.5	125.5	125.5	124.0	102
1's (56's)	do.	102.6	102.6	103.0	103.0	111.0	111.0	111.0	114.1	111
2's (50's)	do.	93.1	93.6	94.0	94.6	104.5	104.5	104.5	106.5	113
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	83.0	84.1	84.5	84.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	112
4's (44's)	do.	85.5	85.9	86.0	86.0	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	101
5's (40's)	do.	85.8	85.9	86.0	86.0	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	101
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 3/	do.	33.1	32.5	32.8	33.2	32.6	33.2	34.0	34.2	103
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 4/	do.	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	34.0	---	---	---	
Acetate, 5 denier 4/	do.	39.0	39.0	39.0	39.0	34.0	---	---	---	
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	170.0	170.0	150.0	150.0	
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	180.0	180.0	160.0	160.0	
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	180.0	150.0	150.0	79
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	185.0	185.0	185.0	185.0	185.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	76
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ Not available.
2/ AMS Boston market reports.
3/ Average of 10 markets.
4/ From Textile Organon.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 14, 1954

SUMMARY

Wool prices are likely to continue relatively stable over the next few months at levels about the same as or slightly below a year earlier. Prices for most fine and half-blood wools probably will remain above loan rates during the next few months, while those of three-eighths blood and lower wools are likely to continue at or slightly below.

Prices received by growers for 1953 clip shorn wool averaged 54.7 cents per pound, slightly higher than the year before and slightly above the national average support level. Prices received for the 1954 clip (April 1954-March 1955) probably will average about the same as or close to those of last season. The minimum national average support price to the grower for the 1954 clip was announced last December as 52.1 cents per pound. The announcement provided that if the parity price for wool as of March 15, 1954, were higher than that used in establishing this minimum, the average support price would be increased accordingly. Ninety percent of the March 15 parity price was 53.2 cents. The proposed wool program involving incentive payments designed to encourage increased production and consumption of domestic wool is now being considered by Congress. The Secretary has announced that if it is enacted in time it will be put into effect before the end of the marketing season.

World supplies available for the rest of the season which ends July 1 are about the same as at this time last year. The British Dominions have less wool for sale, but the quantity unsold in South America is larger. Total stocks in consuming countries are about the same as a year ago.

Production of both shorn and pulled wool in the United States this season is expected to be down a little from last year. Production in 1953 is estimated at 230 million pounds of shorn wool and 41 million pounds of pulled wool, equivalent to about 132 million pounds of clean wool. Indications are that trade stocks are substantially lower than a year ago. As of March 31, 1954, CCC had available for sale about 90.4 million pounds, actual weight, of wool acquired under the 1952 program. A year earlier, CCC holdings amounted to 11.4 million pounds. As of February 28, 1954, about 31 million pounds of shorn wool were under loan under the 1953 program. A year earlier, 81.5 million pounds were under loan under the 1952 program. Total stocks in the United States probably are lower than a year ago.

World consumption of wool during 1953 is estimated to have totaled about 2.60 billion pounds, scoured basis, about one-tenth above the previous year. However, the rate of consumption declined slightly during the second half of the year, largely because of a sharp drop in the United States.

The rate of mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States during the second half of last year was almost one-fifth below that of the first half. During the fourth quarter of last year, it was the lowest for that time of year since 1937. Although the rate increased a little in January and again in February of this year, it was about one-third below a year earlier.

Retail sales of wool products during the latter part of last year were lower than had been anticipated and inventories became large relative to sales. Some improvement in the rate of mill consumption appears likely as these ratios approach more nearly normal working levels. A substantial increase would be needed, however, to bring the total for the year up to the 352 million pounds, scoured basis, used last year.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Wool Prices Abroad Relatively Stable

Prices of most wools in foreign markets advanced slightly during the closing pre-Easter sales after declining gradually from levels at the early auctions of the 1953-54 marketing season in the British Dominions (table 1). Early in April prices of fine wool in Australia were slightly lower than both earlier in the season and a year earlier. The price situation for fine wools at the auctions in the Union of South Africa has been about the same as in Australia.

Prices of crossbred wools at the New Zealand auctions were a little higher than at the beginning of the season and a year earlier.

Most Boston Quotations Lower Than Year Ago

Quotations for most wools at Boston changed but little from late 1952 until March when they declined slightly.

Boston quotations for Australian fine wools remained practically unchanged from early 1953 until early March of this year, but in early April ranged from 5 to 10 cents below a year earlier.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1952	1953				1954		Last data available as percent of a year earlier
		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. 1/	
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds								
Dutiable 2/	do.	15.0	21.0	17.8	16.8	7.9			53
60's and finer	do.	11.6	14.5	12.9	11.2	6.1			53
56's - 60's	do.								
50's - 56's	do.	1.6	3.0	2.4	2.6	1.1			69
44's - 50's	do.								
40's - 44's	do.	.2	.7	.6	.4	.1			50
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.4	2.7	1.6	2.3	.5			36
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.1	.1	.3	.3	.1			100
Duty-free	do.	14.3	19.6	10.0	14.2	4.7			33
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	8.4	8.9	5.5	8.3	3.4			40
Not finer than 40's	do.	5.9	10.7	4.5	5.9	1.3			22
Accumulated since January 1									
Dutiable 2/	do.	248.4	21.0	38.8	55.6	165.6			67
60's and finer	do.	162.0	14.5	27.4	38.6	102.6			63
56's - 60's	do.								
50's - 56's	do.	47.4	3.0	5.4	8.0	28.8			61
44's - 50's	do.								
40's - 44's	do.	17.1	.7	1.2	1.6	9.8			57
Not finer than 40's	do.	18.1	2.7	4.3	6.7	21.7			120
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	3.2	.1	.5	.7	2.7			84
Duty-free	do.	118.6	19.6	29.6	43.8	128.6			108
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	75.5	8.9	14.4	22.7	69.1			92
Not finer than 40's	do.	43.1	10.7	15.2	21.1	59.5			138
Imports for consumption, actual weight									
Dutiable	do.	24.7	34.3	29.3	27.9	12.0	14.1	10.4	36
Duty-free	do.	20.7	28.5	14.7	21.3	6.3	11.0	10.4	71
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/									
Per week, during month 4/									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	6,725	6,871	7,391	7,500	4,183	4,663	4,934	67
60's and finer	do.	3,591	3,620	3,702	3,784	2,208			61
50's up to 60's	do.	2,376	2,416	2,710	2,628	1,381			58
48's and coarser	do.	758	835	979	1,088	594			78
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	3,029	2,738	3,164	3,203	2,144	2,460	2,445	77
Accumulated since January 1									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	346.8	34.4	63.9	93.9	352.5	18.7	38.3	60
60's and finer	do.	177.4	18.1	32.9	48.0	178.4			101
50's up to 60's	do.	124.2	12.1	22.9	33.4	128.1			103
48's and coarser	do.	45.2	4.2	8.1	12.5	46.0			102
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	119.6	13.7	26.3	39.2	133.2	9.8	19.6	75
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear								
Accumulated since January 1	yards								
Apparel fabrics	do.	308.0			72.7	286.5			93
Government orders	do.	63.7			8.2	20.3			32
Men's and boys' wear	do.	108.7			33.1	129.3			119
Women's and children's wear	do.	135.6			31.4	136.9			101
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	43.4			12.6	47.4			109
Blanketing	do.	24.3			6.8	28.9			119
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	19.1			5.8	18.5			97
Total woven fabrics	do.	351.4			85.3	333.9			95

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning system and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), by months, 1952-54

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1952						
January 25	162.2	127.5	95.0	95.0	81.1	81.1
February 8	165.7	133.2	98.5	84.6	82.3	81.1
March 21	147.3	119.2	79.5	63.1	59.6	57.3
April 3	147.5	107.7	72.6	56.2	51.5	51.5
May 16	163.5	122.6	91.1	75.9	66.6	64.2
May 23	166.3	124.5	91.9	76.8	67.5	64.0
July 18	181.1	133.5	104.5	88.2	81.3	78.9
July 25	174.2	127.7	96.4	84.8	80.1	76.6
September 19	164.6	127.5	91.6	82.3	78.8	74.2
September 26	171.7	136.9	99.8	84.7	81.2	76.6
November 28	175.1	140.1	108.6	93.4	88.7	84.0
December 12	177.6	140.2	107.5	88.8	85.3	81.8
1953						
January 18	185.2	143.0	107.8	89.1	86.7	84.4
January 23	183.0	134.9	93.9	80.9	77.4	75.1
February 20	190.3	141.0	101.0	85.7	82.2	78.7
March 20	193.5	146.6	107.9	89.1	86.8	84.4
March 27	197.1	147.8	107.9	93.8	90.3	89.1
May 8	202.7	152.3	110.2	93.8	90.2	89.1
May 15	211.1	157.2	110.2	93.8	90.3	89.1
July 10	201.8	150.2	103.2	89.2	85.6	83.3
July 24	197.1	150.2	106.8	92.7	88.0	85.7
September 18	188.9	143.4	110.8	100.3	93.3	89.8
October 2	192.5	149.3	114.3	105.0	95.7	93.3
November 27	187.5	146.5	109.0	98.4	92.6	91.4
December 11	187.4	146.4	105.4	94.9	90.2	89.0
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 29	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau Market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Quotations at Boston for Montevideo 58's, 60's and finer wools changed only slightly from March of last year until March of this year but then declined slightly. Early in April clean-basis quotations were 5 to 10 cents lower than a year earlier. Quotations for 56's, 50's and 46's, 48's increased from last July into March of this year but then dropped slightly. Present quotations for these wools are about 10 cents below a year ago. Quotations for 44's and 40's are about the same now as a year ago.

Boston quotations for Argentine 5's (40's) and 5/6's (40s/36s) increased during July-September of last year, then remained unchanged until about mid-March when they declinedrather sharply. Grease-basis quotations for these wools early in April were about 5 cents above a year earlier.

Quotations for most original bag Texas fine wools were about the same as a year earlier (table 2). Those for most graded fleece and graded and original bag territory wools were about the same as or slightly lower than a year earlier. Reported quotations for most pulled wools were lower than a year earlier.

Boston quotations for most domestic shorn fine and half-blood wools for the week ending April 9 were above loan rates under the 1953 program, while those for most three-eighths blood and lower wools were near or below loan rates (table 3). Reported quotations for most pulled wools were above loan rates.

1953 Clip Prices Averaged Slightly Higher than 1952

The average price received by growers for shorn wool during the marketing year April 1953-March 1954 was 54.7 cents per pound, grease basis, 1.6 cents above the national average support price under the 1953 program and 0.6 cents above the average for the 1952 clip (table 4).

Prices received by growers at mid-March averaged 52.1 cents, compared with 53.1 cents the month before and 53.4 cents a year earlier.

1954 Program Average Support Level To Be Not Less than 52.1 Cents

It was announced last December that suport prices for 1954 shorn wool would average not less than 52.1 cents per pound, grease basis, to the grower. The announcement provided that if 90 percent of the March 15, 1954, parity price for wool were higher than this, the average support price would be increased accordingly. Ninety percent of the March 15, 1954, parity price for wool was 53.2 cents. The average support price under the 1953 program was 53.1 cents.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended April 9, 1954 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1953 week ended April 10	1954 week ended Feb. 12	1954 week ended April 9	Percent change week ended April 9, from Average 1947-49	Percent change week ended April 9, from April 10, 1953	Percent change week ended April 9, from Feb. 12 1954
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	172.5	172.5	167.5	+10.4	-2.9	-2.9
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	152.5	153.0	152.5	+11.2	0	- .3
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	132.5	132.5	127.5	+16.9	-3.8	-3.8
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	122.5	120.0	113.5	+13.5	-7.3	-5.4
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	102.5	106.5	102.5	+14.0	0	-3.8
Common and braid	83.5	97.5	102.5	97.5	+16.8	0	-4.9
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	173.0	181.0	172.5	+11.7	- .3	-4.7
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	144.0	144.0	142.5	+ 8.3	-1.0	-1.0
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	120.0	120.0	114.5	+10.9	-4.6	-4.6
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	111.0	113.5	108.0	+11.3	-2.7	-4.8
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	106.0	106.5	102.5	+30.7	-3.3	-3.8
Common and braid	73.4	95.0	101.0	97.5	+32.8	+2.6	-3.5
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	177.5	182.5	177.5	+17.6	0	-2.7
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	162.5	167.5	162.5	+34.3	0	-3.0
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	143.0	157.0	152.5	+37.6	+6.6	-2.9

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 3.- Market quotations and 1953 loan rates per pound for domestic shorn wools, clean basis, Boston

Classification	1953 program loan rates	Boston quotations week ended April 9
	Dollars	Dollars
Graded shorn		
Territory and Texas		
Fine, good French combing and staple	1.63	1.65-1.70
Fine, average and good French combing	1.57	1.60-1.65
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.42	1.50-1.55
½ blood, good French combing and staple	1.49	1.50-1.55
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.29	1.25-1.30
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	1.20	1.10-1.17
Low ¼ blood	1.06	1.00-1.05
Common and braid	1.02	.95-1.00
Fleece		
Fine, Delaine	1.64	1.70-1.75
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.34	1.45-1.50
½ blood, good French combing and staple	1.44	1.40-1.45
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.22	1.13-1.16
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	1.13	1.05-1.11
Low ¼ blood	1.01	1.00-1.05
Common and braid	.97	.95-1.00
Original bag shorn		
Fine Texas		
Good French combing and staple	1.63	1.75-1.80
Eight months (1 inch and over)	1.44	1.60-1.65
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	1.32	1.50-1.55

Compiled from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Advance and non-recourse loans will be available to producers on both shorn and pulled wool from May 1, 1954, through March 31, 1955. Advance loans will be made at not more than 70 percent of the estimated appraisal value and will mature in 6 months from the date of the note, or on March 31, 1955, whichever is earlier. Non-recourse loans will mature on April 30, 1955.

It has been announced that if new legislation is enacted for wool support, the new method may be made available to producers before the end of the marketing year even though the 1954 program is already in operation. In this event, the loan program would be terminated with respect to those producers whose wool has not been pledged to CCC and wool marketed after that date would be eligible for support under the new program.

President Declines to Act on Recommendation of Tariff Commission for Import Fees on Wool

The President has announced that, in view of the new wool program involving incentive payments that is being considered by Congress, no action is being taken on the recommendation of the majority of members of the Tariff Commission to impose certain fees on imports of wool in addition to the prevailing duties.

The Tariff Commission's recommendation resulted from an investigation made at the request of the President, on the advice of the Secretary of Agriculture, under the provisions of Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended.

Cash Receipts from Shorn Wool Last Year About Same as in 1952

Cash receipts to growers from shorn wool are estimated to have amounted to $126.1 million. The estimate for the 1952 clip is $125.8 million. The slight increase in the average price received was just about offset by the slight decline in production.

31 Million Pounds of Shorn Wool Under Loan as of February 28

Loans were outstanding on about 31 million pounds of shorn wool on February 28 under the 1953 program. A year earlier, 81.5 million pounds were under loan under the 1952 program. World demand for wool was somewhat stronger during the 1953 season than during 1952. Also, the national average support level under the 1953 program was about a cent lower than for the 1952 program. Loans under the 1953 program will mature on April 30.

CCC Had 90.4 Million Pounds of Wool For Sale as of March 31

On March 31, CCC had available for sale about 90.4 million pounds, actual weight, of wool acquired under the 1952 support program. Of the total, 84.1 million pounds were shorn wool and 6.3 million pounds were pulled wool.

The CCC acquired about 100.6 million pounds of wool under the 1952 program. Of the total disposals through March 31, about 2 million pounds were exported and about 8.4 million pounds were sold to domestic users.

Table 4.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, price per pound received by growers, cash receipts, and wool production, United States, 1940-53

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece	Shorn wool production	Price per pound 2/	Cash receipts 3/	Pulled wool production	Total wool production
	Thous.	Lb.	Thous.lb.	Cents	Thous.dol.	Thous.lb.	Thous.lb.
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014	28.4	105,539	62,000	434,014
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520	35.5	137,754	65,800	453,320
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297	40.1	155,728	66,700	454,997
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843	41.6	157,587	65,200	444,043
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3	143,224	73,500	411,818
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9	128,970	70,500	378,476
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3	118,805	61,300	342,208
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0	105,654	56,600	308,025
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2	114,055	46,600	278,370
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4	105,223	35,600	248,499
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422	62.1	133,729	32,400	247,822
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545	97.0	218,832	25,900	251,445
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373	54.1	125,809	33,600	265,973
1953 4/	27,756	8.30	230,343	5/54.7	126,109	41,000	271,343

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Revised: Beginning with 1943 the average price is for the marketing season April through March. Prior to 1943 average prices relate to the calendar year.
3/ Computed using April-March average prices beginning with 1943 and calendar year averages prior to 1943.
4/ Preliminary.
5/ Includes an allowance for wool under loan.

During May-August 1953, wools acquired under the 1952 program were available for sale at not less than 115 percent of the appraisal value at Boston, adjusted for freight on wool stored outside Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Since September 1, 1953, these wools have been available for sale at the higher of (1) the market value of the wool by grade as determined each week by the Department of Agriculture or (2) 103 percent of the appraisal value plus sales commission.

Farm Prices for Mohair Last Year Averaged Somewhat Lower than in 1952

Prices received by growers for 1953 clip mohair averaged 88.6 cents per pound, grease basis (table 5). This compares with 96.2 cents in 1952 and the record average price of $1.18 for the 1951 clip.

Mohair Production Increased Last Year

Production of mohair in the 7 principal producing States in 1953 is estimated at 12.6 million pounds, 4 percent above the 1952 output (table 5). Production in 1952 was the lowest since 1925.

The increase in production reflected the larger number of goats clipped and a higher average weight of hair per goat clipped. The average weight was 5.4 pounds, the highest on record.

Cash Receipts from Mohair Declined Slightly Last Year

Cash receipts to growers from the 1953 mohair clip are estimated at $11.1 million, 4 percent below 1952 (table 5). The decrease reflected the decline in the average price received per pound which more than offset the slight increase in marketings.

United States Wool Production Increased Last Year; Decline Likely This Year

Production of shorn and pulled wool in the United States last year totaled 271 million pounds, equivalent to about 132 million pounds of scoured wool (table 4). Combined output in 1952 amounted to 266 million pounds, or about 127 million pounds of scoured wool.

The 1953 shorn wool clip came to 230 million pounds, about 2 million pounds less than in 1952. The decline reflects the smaller number of sheep shorn. The number of sheep and lambs shorn last year has been estimated at 27.8 million head, about 400 thousand head less than in 1952. The average weight per fleece was 8.30 pounds, the highest of record. The previous record was 8.25 pounds in 1952.

Table 5 .- Number of goats clipped, average clip per goat, price per pound received by growers, cash receipts, and mohair production, in the seven principal producing States, United States, 1940-53 1/

	Goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production	Price per pound	Cash receipts
	Thousand	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand dollars
1940	4,297	4.9	21,144	49.7	10,504
1941	4,542	4.8	21,766	56.9	12,389
1942	4,322	4.8	20,676	49.3	10,203
1943	4,276	4.7	20,156	57.1	11,518
1944	4,109	5.0	20,443	60.1	12,295
1945	4,291	5.1	22,008	55.3	12,180
1946	3,939	4.9	19,282	61.1	11,783
1947	3,672	5.0	18,225	53.6	9,772
1948	3,164	5.1	15,972	45.4	7,251
1949	2,558	5.1	12,959	46.3	6,001
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,475	5.2	12,888	118.0	15,183
1952	2,268	5.3	12,116	96.2	11,660
1953 3/	2,307	5.4	12,572	88.6	11,138

1/ Arizona, California, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah. A small quantity of mohair is produced in other States but no estimate is made of the quantity.

2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.

3/ Preliminary.

Production of pulled wool amounted to 41 million pounds, an increase of 7 million pounds or 22 percent over 1952. The increase reflected the larger number of skins pulled. Sheep and lamb slaughter last year was up sharply from 1952. The average weight of wool pulled per skin was 3.53 pounds compared with 3.69 pounds in 1952.

Less wool probably will be produced this year. Since sheep numbers at the beginning of the year were lower than a year earlier, less wool probably will be shorn. Fewer skins will be available for pulling if sheep and lamb slaughter is lower this year as now expected.

World Supplies This Season About Same as for 1952-53

Last December, the Foreign Agricultural Service forecast world production of wool for the current (1953-54) season at 4,410 million pounds, grease basis. It now appears likely, however, that the total will be a little lower than then forecast. However, it probably will still be larger than the estimate for 1952-53. Recent reports from Australia suggest that it is very likely that the 1953-54 clip of that country will be smaller than the 1952-53 clip rather than larger as originally forecast.

Total world supplies available for the season probably are about the same as for 1952-53, since world stocks at the beginning of the season were estimated to have been lower than those of a year earlier. Total stocks in importing countries are estimated to have been larger, but this increase was offset by a decline in holdings in the major exporting countries.

Exports from British Dominions Up; Those from South America Down

Exports of wool from Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa during the early months of the current season were larger than during the same months of 1952-53 (table 6). The increases for these countries ranged from 5 percent for the Union of South Africa to 16 percent for New Zealand.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1951-52, 1952-53, and 1953-54 seasons through December 1/

Exporting country	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
	Mil. lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia	366	520	554
New Zealand	183	110	128
Union of South Africa 2/	111	129	135
Argentina	5	142	22
Uruguay 2/	3	91	22

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay. 2/ Through January.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Exports from Argentina and Uruguay, however, have been substantially lower. Exports from both countries during 1952-53 were unusually large owing to the liquidations of old stocks that season. The tendency of growers in these countries to hold their wool off the market also has been a factor in the relatively low exports this season.

Imports of Dutiable Wool Down Last Year from 1952

United States imports of dutiable wool for consumption last year amounted to 166 million pounds, clean content, only two-thirds the quantity of the year before. The reduction reflected the larger quantity of domestic wool used and the use of trade stocks. The stock-consumption ratio at the end of the year probably was unusually low, even with the low rate of consumption. Imports last year were only 11 million pounds larger than the post war low of 1949, when 339 million pounds were consumed, and, except for 1949, were the lowest since 1940.

Imports trended gradually downward over the year. The first half of the year accounted for over 60 percent of the total. Imports during January of this year were a little larger than during both November and December but amounted to less than half the quantity of January 1953, when they were larger than in any other month of 1953. Indications are that imports continued relatively low during February and March.

The proportion of imports originating in South America last year was considerably larger than in 1952, while that from the British Dominions was substantially lower (table 7).

Imports of Duty-free Wool Increased Last Year

Imports of duty-free wool for consumption last year totaled 129 million pounds, clean content. These are "named" wools and other wools not finer than 40's which are enterable free of duty if for use in the manufacture of floor coverings and certain other specified items. The total last year was about 10 million pounds larger than that for 1952. But since it was a little smaller than the quantity consumed, stocks at the end of the year were a little lower than a year earlier.

A larger proportion of duty-free imports originated in Argentina last year than the year before (table 7). But the proportion from New Zealand was smaller.

World Consumption Increased Last Year

The Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates that world consumption of wool during 1953 amounted to about 2.60 billion pounds, clean basis (table 8). The 1953 total exceeded the 2.34 billion pounds of 1952 and was only 3 percent below the record of 1950. For most of the major consuming countries, except the United States, the increases were substantial, ranging up to 29 percent for the United Kingdom. Combined use of apparel and carpet wool in the United States was up only 4 percent.

Table 7.- Percentage distribution of United States imports of wool by country of origin, 1952 and 1953

Country	Duty-free		Dutiable		Total	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Australia	0.1	0.1	37.6	28.0	25.4	15.8
New Zealand	14.7	9.1	22.1	13.8	19.7	11.7
Union of South Africa	.4	.8	9.8	6.7	6.7	4.1
Argentina	27.2	47.3	12.0	29.7	16.9	37.4
Uruguay	.1	.1	12.9	17.4	8.8	9.8
Other countries	57.5	42.6	5.6	4.4	22.5	21.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

The quantity consumed during the second half of the year was about 5 percent below that of the first half. The decline during the second half of the year reflects for the most part a decline of almost one-fifth in consumption of apparel and carpet wool in the United States. Consumption in the United Kingdom was down 7 percent, but in most of the other consuming countries it increased.

The quarterly rate of world consumption reached a record high during the first quarter of 1950 and was fairly stable during the remainder of that year. The low of a sharp decline which began early in 1951 was reached during the third quarter of that year. Consumption then increased continously through 7 successive quarters, but turned down during the third quarter of last year. Consumption during the fourth quarter was about the same as in the previous quarter.

Table 8.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1947-54

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,142	2,135	2,185	2,245	2,323	2,348	2,490	3/2,500
Consumption	2,450	2,574	2,449	2,681	2,274	2,336	2/2,599	

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Forecast.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 9 .- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-54

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	6,871	7,391	7,500	7,298	7,849	7,818	6,445	7,470	6,934	5,929	4,742	4,183
Carpet	2,738	3,164	3,203	2,864	2,434	2,577	1,554	2,639	2,485	2,346	2,248	2,144
Total	9,609	10,555	10,703	10,162	10,283	10,395	7,999	10,109	9,419	8,275	6,990	6,327
1954												
Apparel	4,663	4,934										
Carpet	2,460	2,445										
Total	7,123	7,379										

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

United States Mills Used About As Much Apparel Wool Last Year as the Year Before

Woolen and worsted mills used 352 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool last year. This compared with 347 million pounds in 1952. The 1953 total, however, covered one more week than the 1952 total. The average weekly rate of consumption during 1953 was about the same as that for 1952.

Data on fabric production indicate that the use of wool for civilian goods in 1953 was substantially higher than in 1952 but that this increase was offset by a sharp drop in the use of wool for military items.

The rate of consumption last year was above that of a year earlier through July but below a year earlier the remaining months of the year (table 9). The rate of mill use during the second half of the year was almost one-fifth below that of the first half and 15 percent lower than during the second half of 1952. The rate of consumption during the fourth quarter of 1953 was the lowest for that time of year since 1937. During the second half of 1952, the rate was 17 percent above that of the first half.

The average weekly rate of consumption in January 1954 was about 11 percent above that of December. A further increase took place in February. The rate during both months, however, was about one-third below a year earlier.

The proportion of 60's and finer in total consumption last year was 50.6 percent, almost the same as in 1952 (table 10). However, the proportion consumed on the worsted system was considerably larger than in 1952 (table 11).

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, 1946-53

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	54.8	62.2	62.6	54.6	56.3	58.5	51.2	50.6
50's up to 60's	31.3	25.6	26.9	35.4	34.5	32.8	35.8	36.3
48's and coarser	13.9	12.2	10.5	10.0	9.2	8.7	13.0	13.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1946-53

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Worsted	56.9	64.0	65.8	59.1	67.3	58.9	53.9	58.1
Woolen	43.1	36.0	34.2	40.9	32.7	41.1	46.1	41.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of Census.

More Carpet Wool Used Last Year

Domestic mills used 133 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool last year. The average weekly rate of consumption was about 9 percent above that of 1952 but about 37 percent below the record high of 1948. Wool accounted for about 75 percent of the fiber used by woolen and worsted mills in the spinning of carpet and rug yarns (table 12).

The rate of consumption declined during the latter part of the year, however, relative to both earlier in the year and a year earlier. The average weekly rate of consumption during December was 29 percent below a year earlier.

The rate of consumption improved somewhat in January. The average weekly rate during that month was about 14 percent above that of December, but about 10 percent below that of a year earlier. The rate in February was almost the same as in January but was 23 percent below a year earlier.

Woolen and Worsted Woven Fabric Output Declined Last Year

Total production of woven woolen and worsted fabric (fabric principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool) last year amounted to 334 million linear yards. The average weekly rate of production during the year was about 7 percent below that of the year before (table 13).

The rate of production during the first half of the year was well above that of the corresponding period of 1952. However, this increase was more than offset by a sharp decline during the second half of the year. The rate of production during the fourth quarter was about 26 percent below a year earlier (table 14).

Table 12.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-53

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	74.2	73.9	75.1	77.0	73.4	74.4	74.7	77.8	75.9	74.6	75.8	75.4	75.2
1954	73.5												
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.1	5.3	4.9	5.0	4.2	6.2	4.5	4.7	4.4	5.4	4.9	5.3	4.9
1954	4.5												
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.0	4.0	3.2	2.8	5.6	4.7	6.7	4.0	4.9	4.3	7.1	4.6	4.6
1954	4.7												
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.5	15.8	15.7	14.1	15.5	13.7	13.1	12.1	13.5	14.5	11.1	13.5	14.2
1954	16.2												
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
1954	1.1												

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, 1951-53 1/

Fabric	1951 (52 weeks)	1952 (52 weeks)	1953 (53 weeks) 2/	Percentage change in weekly average rate: 1953 from 1951	Percentage change in weekly average rate: 1953 from 1952
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	375,400	351,359	334,118	-12.7	-6.7
Apparel	316,411	307,951	287,015	-11.0	-8.6
Woolen	163,060	198,268	181,805	+ 9.4	-10.0
Worsted	153,351	109,683	105,210	-32.7	-5.9
Government orders	103,885	63,658	20,453	-80.7	-68.5
Woolen	41,992	32,755	11,999	-72.0	-64.1
Worsted	61,893	30,903	8,454	-86.6	-73.2
Other than Government orders	212,526	244,293	266,562	+23.1	+7.1
Woolen	121,068	165,513	169,806	+37.6	+ .7
Worsted	91,458	78,780	96,756	+ 3.8	+20.5
Men's and boys'	105,075	108,734	129,871	+21.3	+17.2
Woolen	35,839	50,196	55,874	+53.0	+9.2
Worsted	69,236	58,538	73,997	+ 4.9	+24.0
Women's and children's	107,451	135,559	136,691	+24.8	-1.1
Woolen	85,229	115,317	113,932	+31.2	-3.1
Worsted	22,222	20,242	22,759	+ .5	+10.3
Non-apparel	58,939	43,408	47,103	-21.7	+ 6.5
Blanketing	31,408	24,334	28,558	-10.8	+15.1
Government orders	16,512	8,599	8,466	-49.7	- 3.4
Other than Government orders	14,896	15,735	20,092	+32.3	+25.3
Other non-apparel	27,531	19,074	18,545	-34.0	- 4.6
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds		
Woven felt	11,342	8,481	9,033	-21.9	+ 4.5

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.
2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States during 1953 as percent of 1952

Fabric	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	97.3	110.7	94.0	74.2	93.3
Apparel	95.2	109.7	89.2	74.7	91.4
Woolen	102.5	106.2	85.9	71.1	90.0
Worsted	85.1	115.5	96.5	82.0	94.1
Government orders	34.7	25.6	25.5	42.7	31.5
Woolen	44.7	26.4	23.9	56.3	35.9
Worsted	27.0	24.8	28.8	28.0	26.8
Other than Government orders	122.4	135.4	103.0	79.0	107.1
Woolen	119.7	124.3	98.8	72.6	100.7
Worsted	127.3	157.7	112.6	93.1	120.5
Men's and boys'	134.1	140.7	108.3	90.7	117.2
Woolen	127.8	120.0	105.0	87.2	109.2
Worsted	139.1	161.2	111.1	93.4	124.0
Women's and children's	112.1	129.9	99.3	70.7	98.9
Woolen	115.8	126.9	96.5	67.3	96.9
Worsted	94.5	146.0	116.6	92.3	110.3
Non-apparel	110.8	117.6	136.1	71.0	106.5
Blanketing	100.4	134.8	158.8	85.0	115.1
Government orders	105.7	141.8	108.1	61.1	96.6
Other than Government orders	97.2	132.3	182.8	101.6	125.3
Other non-apparel	126.8	101.0	108.6	51.1	95.4
Woven felt	109.1	120.3	80.7	104.8	104.5

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

The average weekly rate of production of apparel fabric, which accounted for about 85 percent of the total, was 9 percent below 1952. The rate for non-apparel fabric, however, was up slightly.

Production of civilian apparel fabric for the year was about 7 percent above that of 1952. Output of apparel fabric for Government orders, however, was down about 68 percent and accounted for only 7 percent of the total compared with 21 percent in 1952 and 33 percent in 1951.

The rate of production of woolen apparel fabric was greater than for worsteds (tables 15 and 16). Almost all of the increase in non-Government orders was in men's wear fabrics. Output of women's fabrics last year was about the same as in 1952.

Almost all of the increase in output of non-apparel fabric was in blanketing.

Table 15.- Percentage distribution of woven woolen and worsted apparel fabric production, United States, 1950-53

Fabric	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	100	100	100	100
Woolen	51	52	64	63
Worsted	49	48	36	37
Government orders	100	100	100	100
Woolen	33	40	51	59
Worsted	67	60	49	41
Other than Government	100	100	100	100
Woolen	52	57	68	64
Worsted	48	43	32	36
Men's and boys'	100	100	100	100
Woolen	32	34	46	43
Worsted	68	66	54	57
Women's and children's	100	100	100	100
Woolen	71	79	85	83
Worsted	29	21	15	17

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Percentage distribution of woven woolen and worsted apparel fabric production, United States, 1952 and 1953

	Jan.-Mar.		Apr.-June		July-Sept.		Oct.-Dec.	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Apparel	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Woolen	58	63	63	61	69	67	67	63
Worsted	42	37	37	39	31	33	33	37
Government orders	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Woolen	43	56	50	51	67	62	52	68
Worsted	57	44	50	49	33	38	48	32
Other than Government	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Woolen	65	64	67	62	70	67	69	63
Worsted	35	36	33	38	30	33	31	37
Men's and boys'	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Woolen	45	43	50	42	46	45	44	42
Worsted	55	57	50	58	54	55	56	58
Women's and children's	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Woolen	83	85	84	83	86	84	86	82
Worsted	17	15	16	17	14	16	14	18

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

More Men's Tailored Clothing Cut Last Year

Cuttings of all categories of men's tailored clothing last year were above 1952 (table 17). The increases in the average weekly rate of cuttings ranged from 4 percent for topcoats to 28 percent for summer-weight suits.

For the year, increases in cuttings from wool fabric were slightly less than for other fabric for regular-weight suits and separate dress and sports trousers (table 18). For summer suits, the increases were about the same as for other fabrics. However, the proportion of both regular and summer-weight suits cut from wool fabric during late 1953 was larger than both earlier in the year and a year earlier.

Proportion of Consumers' Income Spent for Clothing Continues Decline

Consumers spent almost as much for clothing in 1953 as they did in 1952. Clothing prices last year averaged only slightly lower than in 1952.

Clothing expenditure accounted for a smaller proportion of both disposable income and total consumer expenditure last year than in 1952 (table 19). The proportions have declined sharply since the war and during the last 4 years have been below pre-war.

Table 17.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1951-53

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change in weekly average rate	
	1951 (52 weeks)	1952 (52 weeks)	1953 (53 weeks)	1953 from 1951	1953 from 1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	19,559	19,336	21,774	+ 9.2	+10.5
Regular-weight	15,242	15,110	16,368	+ 5.4	+ 6.3
50 percent or more wool	14,037	13,913	14,972	+ 4.7	+ 5.6
Other	1,205	1,197	1,396	+13.4	+14.3
Summer-weight	4,317	4,226	5,406	+22.9	+25.5
50 percent or more wool	1,512	1,173	1,502	- 2.8	+25.2
Rayon and other synthetics	2,805	3,053	3,904	+36.7	+25.6
Separate dress and sport trousers	39,010	45,785	52,576	+32.2	+12.7
50 percent or more wool	11,968	14,922	16,495	+35.2	+ 8.4
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	24,754	28,158	31,710	+25.7	+10.5
Chiefly cotton	2,288	2,705	4,371	+87.5	+58.7
Overcoats and topcoats	5,540	5,318	5,656	+ 0.2	+ 4.3
Overcoats	1,345	1,012	1,113	-18.9	+ 7.7
Topcoats	4,195	4,306	4,543	+ 6.3	+ 3.5

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1951-53

Type of garment	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits			
Regular-weight	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	92.1	92.1	91.5
Other	7.9	7.9	8.5
Summer-weight	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	35.0	27.8	27.8
Rayon and other synthetics	65.0	72.2	72.2
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.7	32.6	31.4
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	63.4	61.5	60.3
Chiefly cotton	5.9	5.9	8.3

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.- Expenditure for clothing related to disposable income and consumer personal expenditure, United States, average 1935-39, annual 1946-53

Year	Disposable income per person	Consumer personal expenditure per person	Expenditure for clothing as percent of: Disposable income	Expenditure for clothing as percent of: Consumer personal expenditure
	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent
1935-39 average	506	486	8.09	8.42
1946	1,108	1,024	9.63	10.42
1947	1,160	1,133	9.38	9.61
1948	1,267	1,196	8.96	9.49
1949	1,238	1,194	8.44	8.75
1950	1,338	1,265	7.57	8.01
1951	1,438	1,330	7.36	7.96
1952	1,476	1,370	7.27	7.84
1953 1/	1,531	1,419	6.78	7.31

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from data of U. S. Department of Commerce.